A

TRVE REPORT

of the moſt execrable Murder *committed vpon the late French King* Henrie *the 4. of famous memory, with diuers particularities aſwell concerning the Priſoner, as other* matters preceding and enſuing the accident.

Written in a Letter from good place, and much differing from the vncertaine relations thereof heretofore publiſhed.

AT LONDON,

Printed for *Iohn Budge*, and are to be ſold at his ſhop in Brittaine Burſe. *An.* 1610.

(***)

A COPIE OF A Letter from *Paris* 17. of May, declaring the mãner of the French kings murder, & other particularities thereupon depending.

SIR, the misfortune of our France *hath hitherto so amazed mee, that I could not possibly write vnto you how it was, but now that the consideration of the euill (without remedie) hath giuen mee time to breath, I will performe the dutie I owe you in letting you know it, and thus it happened:*

A Mischieuous villaine called *Francis Rauaillart*, and borne at *Angolesme*, now prisoner in the Cõsergerie of the Pallace of *Paris*, confesseth that more than these 8. moneths he hath sought occasiõ

to kill the King, becauſe hee ſuffered two Religions in his Kingdome, but could not find the meanes to doe it vntill the fourteenth of May laſt, A daye which many Aſtrologians haue iudged fatall to his Maieſty, wherof he was aduertiſed both by the Queene, and by *Monsr. de Vendoſme*, with requeſt not to goe abroad that day. But hee (not belieuing Predictions) ſayd, that it was an offence to God to giue credit vnto them, and that hauing God for his guarde hee feared no man; yet was hee almoſt all that morning at his prayers, and then went to walke at the Tuilleries, where being in the great Gallerie, this wretch thought to execute his deſeigne, but being put by by *Monſr. de Vendoſme*, talking with the King, hee reſolued to attempt hum no further at that time, bnt returned to attend at the *Lovre*, where he tarryed vntill foure of the clocke in the afternoone, ſitting vppon the ſteppes of the hall, making

ſhew

ſhew onely to behold the lackies playing in the Court. At which time the King cauſed his Coach to bee brought to goe to the Arcenale to ſee *Monsr. de Sullie* who was there ſomewhat in indiſpoſition. The King ſat in the hinder end of the Coach accompanyed with the Dukes *de Vendoſme*, *Montbaſſon d' Eſpernon*, and *Monsr. le Grand*, and ſo went forward without ſuffering any of his Guarde to follow him, being very confident, and yet after dinner before he went out of his Cabinet, he fell to his prayers againe within his wardrobe.

Paſſing through the ſtreete called *la Ferronerie*, which leadeth into Saint *Denis* ſtreet, a Cart or Waggon croſt his Coach and cauſed it to ſtoppe. This villaine which followed it (ſeeing the King behind in the Coach leaning towards the boote thereof, to talke with *Monsr. d' Eſpernon*, and being without a cloake to put his arme out at the open

place betwixt the two hindermoſt pil-lars of the Coach, and ſo the left ſide na-ked without defence of his arme, which the King in talking leaned vpon on the other ſide) ſtabbed at him with a knife of a foote long, but the thruſt ranne a long the third ribbe and was not deadly. Whereat the King crying *I am hurt, but it is nothing*, this curſed wretch redou-bled his blowe, which went right to the heart, and would haue giuen him the third, but that *Monsr. de Montbaſſon* caught hold of his arme. At this ſe-cond blowe his Maieſtie fell downe vp-pon his face dead, and was carryed to the *Lovvre*, where the Queen was, repoſing her ſelfe after the great trauaile ſhee en-dured the daye before at her corona-tion.

This great Princeſſe beholding this ſad ſpectacle, fell twice into a ſwound, (the generoſitie of her minde and the greatneſſe of her ſorrowe, ſtopping the foun-

fountaine of teares.) Then comming to her ſelfe againe, with a manly courage pluckt vp her ſpirits, and commanded the Dukes *de Guiſe*, and *d' Eſpernon*, (being the principall of thoſe ſhee ſawe about her) to giue order for the ſafety of the young King and his bretheren, and of the Citty of *Paris*, which they promiſed to doe: and going out of the Chamber embraced one another, and ſware friendſhippe and loue, with proteſtation neuer to remember old enmitie. The like did *Monsr. d' Eſpernon* to *Monsr. Montigny*, with-whome meeting, he ſayd, Sir, you and your brother are the men to whome I haue wiſhed moſt harme of any in the world, but now I will bee a friend to you both, and doe praye you to bee ſo to mee, to the end wee may the better ſerue our King and our country.

The ſayd Duke *d' Eſpernon* that daye ſhewed great effects of his fidelity, for

with the Regiment of Guards hee ſecured the King, Queene, and late kings Children, and alſo the Citty of *Paris*, ſetting Courts of guard in all publicke places, which notwithſtand were of no vſe.

For the poore people were ſo confuſed with ſorrowe, that a man could ſee them doe nothing elſe but goe wayling vp and downe the ſtreetes, lamenting the loſſe of their King. Inſomuch as they durſt not carrye this wretched villaine to priſon, for feare the ſorrowe of the people ſhould haue turned into furie vppon him, ſo that hee was faine to be kept Foure and twenty houres at the *Hoſtell de Retts*.

The ſame daye the Marſhalles of *Fraunce* and Officers of the Crowne, tooke their oaths to the King & Queen, and the Parliament aſſembling at ſixe of the clocke in the euening, declared the

Queene

Queene Regent during the minoritie of her Sonne, and prayed her to bring the King to the Pallace the next daye, to ſit vppon his ſeate of Iuſtice, and ſo he did.

The King was accompanyed with the Prince of *Conty*, the Duke *d' Anguien* (the Counte *Soiſſons* being abſent) and with the Dukes *de Guiſe*, *de Sullie*, and *d' Eſpernon*, and with the Marſhalles of *Fraunce*, *Lavardin*, *Briſac*, and *Boydolphin*.

Monsr. de Fervaques was ſent away in the night by the Queenes commaundement to goe to his gouernment, ſo alſo was *Monsr. S. Pole*, and many other gouernours.

All thoſe which accompanyed the King were on foote; the Conſtable, Cardinalles, and Eccleſiaſticall Peeres were gone before to take their places, and ſo

was the Duke *de Mayne*.

Counte *Soiſſons* arrived on Monday following the Seauenteenth of this moneth, about twoo of the clocke after noone, accompanied with Fiue hundred Horſes, of thoſe which hee brought with him, and ſuch as went forth to meete him, two Marſhalles of *Fraunce* going to him to *Saint Clou*, where hee dyned.

Hee alighted at the *Lovre*, and comming to the Queenes preſence, gaue teſtimonie by his teares, that he participated of her greefe: He promiſed the King all aſſiſtance, euen to the laſt drop of his bloud.

Monsr. *Praſline* was diſpatched away to the armie, to holde ſome order of diſcipline vntill the cõming of the Dukes *de Neuers* and *Bullion*.

Thus

Thus Sir you ſee what doth and hath paſſed in this afflicted Court vntill this preſent, which I ſend you for certaine truth, and ſo ceaſe till future occurents giue occaſion of further aduertiſement.

17. *May.* 1610.

FINIS.